Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A method of monitoring multimedia stream exchange session initialization messages transmitted in packet mode via a monitoring server (20, 22) over a network (18) between a sender terminal (10) and one or more receiver terminals (12), characterized in that it comprises the following steps:

· estimating (50) a bit rate value for at least one initialization packet received by the monitoring server (20, 22);

· comparing (52) that value to a maximum authorized bit rate value; and

· authorizing (40) transmission of the initialization packet only if the bit rate value for that initialization packet does not exceed the maximum authorized bit rate value.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, wherein a transmission channel associated with a specific maximum authorized bit rate value is defined for each pair comprising a sender terminal and a receiver terminal.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, wherein estimating (50) the bit rate value for the initialization packet received by the monitoring server includes the following steps:

· storing the sizes of the latest initialization packets sent by the sender terminal (10) to the receiver terminal (12) and received by the monitoring server (20, 22) during a predetermined duration; and

· dividing the sum of the sizes of the stored initialization packets by the predetermined duration.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, implemented by the monitoring server (20, 22), which also processes session initialization packets.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 4 of monitoring messages, wherein the session initialization packets are forcibly routed to the monitoring server (20, 22) consisting of the first processor server through which said session initialization packets pass.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 4 of monitoring messages, wherein the monitoring server (20, 22) consists of any of the session initialization packet processor servers and routing rules are defined to ensure that the session initialization packets systematically pass in transit through said processor server.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, wherein the session initialization messages transmitted use the Session Initialization Protocol (SIP).

8. (Original) A server (20, 22) for monitoring multimedia stream exchange session initialization messages transmitted in packet mode via a monitoring server over a network (18) between a sender terminal (10) and one or more receiver terminals (12), characterized in that it includes:

· means for estimating (50) a bit rate value for at least one initialization packet received by the monitoring server (20, 22);

    · means for comparing (52) that value to a maximum authorized bit rate value; and

    · means for authorizing (40) transmission of the initialization packet only if the bit rate value for that initialization packet does not exceed the maximum authorized bit rate value.

9. (Original) An installation for transmitting multimedia stream exchange session initialization messages, including a network (18) including one or more monitoring servers (20, 22) according to claim 8.

10. (New) A method according to claim 2 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, wherein estimating (50) the bit rate value for the initialization packet received by the monitoring server includes the following steps:

    · storing the sizes of the latest initialization packets sent by the sender terminal (10) to the receiver terminal (12) and received by the monitoring server (20, 22) during a predetermined duration; and

    · dividing the sum of the sizes of the stored initialization packets by the predetermined duration.

11. (New) A method according to claim 2 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, implemented by the monitoring server (20, 22), which also processes session initialization packets.

12. (New) A method according to claim 3 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, implemented by the monitoring server (20, 22), which also processes session initialization packets.

13. (New) A method according to claim 2 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, wherein the session initialization messages transmitted use the Session Initialization Protocol (SIP).

14. (New) A method according to claim 3 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, wherein the session initialization messages transmitted use the Session Initialization Protocol (SIP).

15. (New) A method according to claim 4 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, wherein the session initialization messages transmitted use the Session Initialization Protocol (SIP).

16. (New) A method according to claim 5 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, wherein the session initialization messages transmitted use the Session Initialization Protocol (SIP).

17. (New) A method according to claim 6 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, wherein the session initialization messages transmitted use the Session Initialization Protocol (SIP).